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tuesday

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Roq En Espanol, Latin House 9pm

wednesday

Karaoke 9pm, Country Lessons 7:30,
Country Dancing 'til 10, R&B / House Dance 10pm
Thursday - Karaoke 9pm, Male Strippers 11pm,
House Dance 9pm

friday

NEW! Happy Hour Karaoke 4-8pm, Country Lessons
7:30pm, Country Dancing 'til 10:30, Hi-Nrg House
Dancing 10:30pm, R&B/Top 40 Video Dance 9pm

saturday

Country Dancing 8pm 'til 10:30, Hi-Nrg House
Dancing 10:30pm, R&B/Top 40 Video Dance 9pm

sunday

Comp BBQ at 6pm, Downtown Divas Female Illusionist
Revue 8pm, R&B Dancing 8pm

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DISPATCH



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It used to be that the only

place the gay community could see itself was in badly written books or onstage. Even then it was mostly glimpses here and there—a few tragic characters, or comic next-door neighbors. Lesbians had pulp fiction stories about women who most often went crazy and killed themselves. Gay men had plays about the desolate hopelessness of being gay and went crazy and killed themselves.

These days we have film and television. Both of which started out with the same basic principles as the books and theatre. *Fortune In Men's Eyes*, *Boys In The Band* and *Cruising* are prime examples—the first two based on plays of the same name. Considering the 1970s and early 1980s to be the formative years of the modern gay civil-rights movement, we were a little overdramatic to say the least. It leaves little doubt of why *All About Eve* and *Mommie Dearest* are considered "gay-classics" while films with actual gay content are often left on the shelf.

Then came movies like *Torch Song Trilogy*, *Longtime Companion* and *Parting Glances*, which while still reflecting the reality of gay life, gave viewers some hope that there would be a better and brighter tomorrow and began to shape gay-themed movies into cultural cornerstones.

While gay-male, and even some transgender (mostly drag) films were available, lesbian content was still rare, and quality lesbian content was even more obscure. Early films aimed toward lesbians such as *Clair of the Moon* and *Salmonberries* were embraced for their theme, but not necessarily their filmmaking. In later years with films like *Bound* and *Better Than Chocolate*, the women start to get some quality pieces, even if more mainstream than their male counterparts.

But two of the best gay-themed films have storylines with both strong gay and lesbian characters. *It's In The Water* and *But I'm A Cheerleader* are two of the only films that have the claim to fame of being both balanced, and watchable.

Television was much the same way until the 1990s when **Ellen Degeneres** forged a path for openly-gay leading characters. Some might credit earlier shows such as *Soap*, or even *Dallas*, both of which featured recurring gay characters. Yet in both shows, and most others, that featured reoccurring gay or lesbian roles, the characters were most often the butt of the joke or the barer of other's unchecked hostility. Degeneres opened the door for GLBT characters who had self-respect.

Now we enjoy only a handful of shows that are clearly gay focused: the now completed *Queer As Folk*, *The L Word*, the *Queer Eye* shows and *Will and Grace*, which is rumored to be in its final season. Yet there are many shows that are popular with the GLBT viewer because of a blatant gay sensibility. Whether from having a featured gay character as in *Six Feet Under*, to the unspoken same-sex storyline as with *Xena*, or oozing of inside gay humor such as *Fat Actress* or *South Park*—these are shows we often label our own.

No more are we hoping to see glimpses of Uncle Arthur on *Bewitched* to validate our lives in mainstream culture when we can turn on *The Simpsons* and hear Marge calling Homer a drama queen, or flip over to *Will and Grace* and complain how unrealistic that Will hasn't had a steady boyfriend in seven years—only to realize we haven't had one in ten.

After the leading gay shows disappear this year, we can only hope that something equally as good, or perhaps even better will take their place. Something that isn't subdued by conformity (let's make the gays even straighter) and something that isn't...well, isn't another *Boy Meets Boy*—where once again, the joke was on the gay guy.

Matthew Burlingame
Editorial Director

MGW

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RESPONSE

PREVIOUS ISSUE



I have often been named as the "Founder" of Breaking Barriers and though I am very flattered by the distinction, it is not entirely true.

JOHN RAMBO

FAREWELL SACRAMENTO

To all my friends, colleagues and supporters:

Thank you so much for everything you've given, taught and shared with me over the last 17 years. Sacramento will always feel like home to me.

Yesterday, **Breaking Barriers** celebrated its 10th anniversary and I received many "thank you's", accolades and awards for my work with this organization. It was very overwhelming, so much so that my own emotions made me forget some very important things I wanted to say, to be sure everyone knew what they were really celebrating.

Breaking Barriers is an amazing organization and I am very privileged to have been a part of it. That is really what I have been—just one part, because one person cannot make an organization and build it to what Breaking Barriers has become. There have been many, many people who've contributed by sharing their ideas, their time, their money and their influence to make it work.

I have often been named as the "Founder" of Breaking Barriers and though I am very flattered by the distinction, it is not entirely true. I

did "found" the organization in its present form as the Breaking Barriers Community Services Center five years ago but the origins of the name and the concept go back much further and started with others.

The idea of Breaking Barriers started in the minds of two women who were members of **River City Metropolitan Community Church (MCC)** named **Rebecca and Diane Feagins**. Their vision was first realized on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, 1994 with a homeless health fair to promote HIV testing and community awareness of the issue of homelessness; this event was held in Plaza Park (now known as Caesar Chavez Park, across from City Hall). In 1995, when local Ryan White funding was being diversified to a larger group of providers, Rebecca and Diane formulated plans for the creation of a new HIV/AIDS service organization: The Metropolitan Community Center for AIDS. This new organization was awarded funding in August of 1995 to provide case management and financial support to people living with HIV, as well as a small pilot program to coordinate volunteers—a program called "Breaking Barriers". My original job, for which I was hired on Aug. 15, 1995 was to develop this from a concept into a program for MCC.

Rev. Freda Smith, pastor of MCC had the foresight to see that this was a good idea and gave her blessing to organize these programs under the banner of the church. This was unheard of at the time—that a church could and would pursue and secure government funding to provide social services. Later, in early 1996, the amount of available Ryan White monies was drastically reduced and MCC lost out on funding for all but the Breaking Barriers program. Left without the infrastructure of the complete MCC AIDS Center, the program could have easily collapsed or MCC could very reasonably have chosen not to continue it. The program was still very small and only just beginning to become known, but Rev. Freda trusted in me to carry it forward and keep it growing.

So it is to Diane, Rebecca and Rev. Freda that Sacramento owes some of these thanks and accolades. They opened the door to something wonderful—a door many have walked through and to what has become a small agency that many people support.

Those supporters—clients who use the services, volunteers who help provide service and donors who make it financially pos-

sible—also deserve gratitude. Like I said, I haven't done this alone. All I've actually done is create a place for these things to come together, a place that is well organized and that remains accountable to the community that supports it.

Please continue supporting Breaking Barriers, It belongs to all of you. I have always viewed Sacramento as a region rich in community resources and it has always been my vision to make Breaking Barriers a vehicle to help people who need those resources to get access to them.

Many, many thanks as well to all who were there to bid me a collective farewell at our anniversary celebration. It is a rare gift for one to be able to hear such love and praise. As everyone told me how much I would be missed, I could not help thinking how many times more I will miss all of you.

Once again, I extend my thanks to those who have supported me, challenged me and been by my side for these many years. My departure is bittersweet because I leave a place and people that I love to pursue a dream.

I wish you all the best!

Sincerely,
John Rambo

THANK YOU

Sisters of Scots Women's Motorcycle Club collected \$230.26 in relief funds for the victims of hurricane Katrina. A big "thank you" to all of our wonderful rainbow family at the Rainbow Festival Women's Stage. One hundred percent went into purchasing items including handy wipes, first aid kits, deodorants, all dental necessities, tissues and soaps. We dropped all items at Paul Blanco Capital City Chevy. Thanks again for your generosity. I would also like to thank all our Sisters for doing a great job of security for this year's Rainbow festival.

Gramps
National Liaison
S.O.S.W.M.C

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE PASSES AB 849, SCHWARZENEGGER PROMISES VETO

Boyce Hinman
CHIEF LOBBYIST LAMBDA LETTERS PROJECT

VETO

"I AM DISAPPOINTED AT GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE WILL VETO THE CIVIL MARRIAGE AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM PROTECTION ACT. WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A SOCIETY THAT HAS MARCHED TOWARDS MORE CIVIL LIBERTY, MORE INCLUSION, MORE EQUITY FOR ALL OUR CITIZENS. SIGNING THIS BILL WOULD HAVE MOVED CALIFORNIA FORWARD ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF HISTORY. I THANK ASSEMBLYMEMBER LENO FOR HIS COURAGE AND LEADERSHIP."

—TREASURER PHIL ANGELIDES

On Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2005, at 7:30PM, the California Legislature made history. It became the first legislature in this country to approve same-sex marriage without being required to by the courts. On that date the Assembly voted for the bill with the bare minimum 41 votes needed for passage. The bill (AB 849) was sent to the Governor for his signature or veto.

Another version of the bill (AB 19) was defeated in the Assembly on June 2. In that vote, Assembly Members Dymally, Negrete McLeod, Salinas and Umberg abstained. That contributed to the defeat of AB 19. This time all four of them voted for AB 849. Their historic votes played a crucial part in the passage of the marriage bill this time.

There was much impassioned debate on both sides of the issue. Assembly Member Chu noted that state legislators, in the 1850s, passed a law prohibiting marriage between Chinese Americans and other Americans. That law remained in force until 1948 when the California Supreme Court declared it to be unconstitutional. Chu went on to say "I resent any legislator telling me who I cannot marry." She said, for that reason, she will vote to overturn the law that says whom gay and lesbian people can't marry.

Assembly Member Umberg said he had received a lot of abuse from his FRIENDS for abstaining on AB 19. And he had been pressured heavily by those who oppose same sex marriage. He noted that legisla-

tors struggle over whether they should lead or simply follow popular opinion among their constituents. He has decided, he said, that this is a time in history for us to lead!

Assembly Member Laird described how his father fought the initiative, passed by California voters in the 1960s, which allowed people selling homes to refuse to sell their homes to minorities. This initiative was overturned by the California Supreme Court. Laird said the law banning same sex marriage was similar to that which his father fought and that he was following in his father's footsteps by fighting for same sex couples' right to marry.

The bill now goes to the Governor. He can sign it or he can veto it. If he does nothing, the bill becomes law without his signature. There will be immense pressure on him to veto the bill.

And already we are hearing people saying he is likely to veto the bill. However, under intense pressure from the public, the Governor has changed his position on a number of high profile issues in the past. So, if we give it our all, we may yet get him to sign it or let it become law without his signature.

What You Can Do

You can call the Governor's office, at (916) 445-2841 and leave the following simple message: "I urge the Governor to sign AB 849". Or when calling that number, select option 5 ("voice your opinion on hot issues"), option 2 ("gender neutral marriage"), then press option ONE (1) to support. Very easy, very important!

You can fax a message to him at (916) 445-4633. You can e-mail him a message by going to govmail.ca.gov.

It is important that he get a flood of messages and calls in support of the bill. Please call, FAX and or E-mail him to express your support. But please get all your friends to do the same. If you asked 10 of your friends to do so and they asked 10 of their friends, etc. we might yet persuade the Governor to sign the bill.

And if you want to keep track of what the Governor does, feel free to visit Lambda Letters' web page at lambdaletters.org. Our web page will have a feature called "Marriage Watch". As soon as the Governor announces his decision, we will post it on our web page.



Sacramento has lost one of its most charitable and hardest working members:

Douglas Fuller, a.k.a. Grand Duchess 22 Lady Cathy. An icon of Sacramento's GLBT community for over 20 years and a constant fixture at the Mercantile Saloon, Lady Cathy worked tirelessly to raise money for charitable causes close to her heart such as the Samaritan Center, Francis House, Avalon House and CGNIE. A long battle with cancer ended Fri., Sept. 9, 2005. There will be a charity car wash Sun., Sept. 18 at the Mercantile Saloon (20th & L Streets), 11am-3pm honoring Lady Cathy, the net proceeds benefit her estate. For more information contact CJ Van Dyke at 916.470.3536

RIP DOUGLAS FULLER aka LADY CATHY

DUCAL BALL INSTALLMENTS SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18

The court of Limp & Gimp presents the Ducal Ball Installments on Sun., Sept. 18. The event will take place at Headhunters Video Lounge Bar & Grille located at 20th & K Streets in downtown Sacramento. Doors open at 6pm, show starts at 7pm. The cost is \$10 and will benefit CGNIE, a non profit organization.



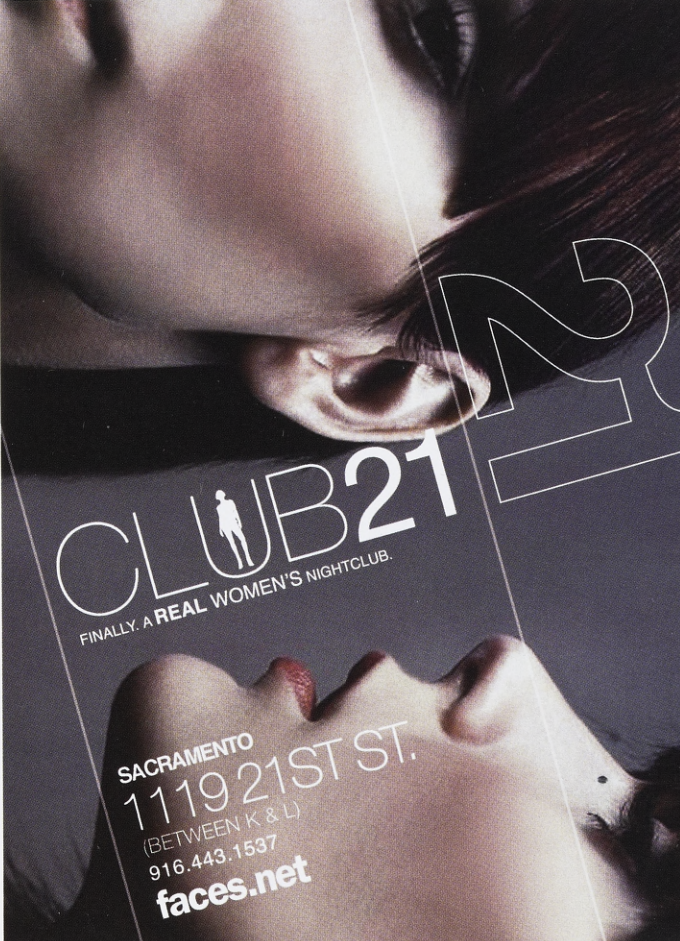
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As a middle-aged poet, I pride myself in having grown past my youthful angst. I have not even used the word fuck in a poem in ten years, until last night, September 1, 2005. I am angry, and I make no apologies. Thank you, Art Luna, for your unfailing support of poetry and for giving me an opportunity to vent at your cafe's weekly reading. And thank you, Trudy, for forwarding the articles that awakened the sleeping dragon within. I rant through my tears.

Iraq
The Orwellian enemy nation du jour
Has become a nightmare.
What the Neon Caesars once falsely
claimed it was
They now have made of it
Lies become manifest
In desert browns
And young, red American blood
And rusted grays of hillbilly armored
vehicles
A place re-fashioned in their image
Breeding ground for terror
Killing fields
Boiling cauldron without the healing
herbs.
And we watched the nightmare
Being born
We trusted the midwives in Washington
And we prayed to be spared from
Over there, over there,
Even as our neighbors' children
Won't come back until it's over, over there.
Even the torture was over there
In prisons with foreign names
But now
The blood washes up on our shores
Iridescent red with an oil spill sheen.
Now the cancer has spread to our shores
Systemic cancer
Metastasized
A bitter diagnosis long denied
Spread to our vital organs
Along the gulf coast
In the wake of a hurricane.
And now the grim harvest
Of the Neon breeders of terror
Is born on the bayou and
Ripens in the sickening sweet stench
Of the urine and fecal smeared
Superdome
Indignation boils in the parched and
hungry chests
Of those still clinging to rooftops
While the 72 hour critical rescue clock
ticks down and stops
And the rescue efforts are suspended for
fear
Of the victims in their righteous anger.
Police are ordered out of rescue mode
To enforce a zero tolerance policy
On the looting of water and food from
Wal-Mart.
"No thievery in misery" is the traditional
values response
To desperation
Even as

Police steal ammunition and guns from
the unguarded stores
To keep them off the streets
Presumably to keep the toxics
Flowing free
In the currents down the boulevard
Of Southern dreams.
Police steal guns and ammunition
Because the good guys get to steal
According to
First Halliburton; Chapter 6; Verse 66.
And a little black boy
Unwashed for a week
Plays football in the Superdome
With the ball he found floating in the
street
In his neighborhood turned poison swamp
(Dreams do come true in America, don't
they?)
As the president flies over in Air Force
One
Safely high above the holocaust he has
created.
Yes you, Mr. President
Who played golf the day after the storm
You
Who will tour the area long after the
storm hit
Don't you remember, Mr. President?
In 1990?
No, you don't remember much from 1990
Do you, Mr. President?
That was before you inherited the
presidency
And the world became your toxic laden,
red-tide oyster
In 1990
A federal task force showed
That for every two miles of wetlands
South of New Orleans
The storm surge would be reduced
By a half a foot
And the wetlands began to be restored
Until you
Mr. President
Reversed course
In 2001
Still wet behind your presidential ears
Reversed course
Like an ebb tide over asphalt
And turned the wetlands back to the
developers
Mr. President
Remember, Mr. President?
How in early 2001,
Long before September 11th,
When the trash of your inauguration

Was still high in the landfill
The Federal Emergency Management
Agency
FEMA
Issued a report listing two of the three
most likely
Disasters to hit America in the near future
as
A terrorist attack on New York
And a devastating hurricane in New
Orleans
Mr. President
But you, eye already firmly planted on
Iraq
Scoffed and did not want to hear anymore
About terrorists and flood plains.
In 2003
Do you remember, Mr. President?
You diverted the Federal Flood Control
funds
To your dirty little war along the Tigris
and the Euphrates
A biblical war
Righteous war
Holy war
Crusade you said
Worthy of draining the money for floods
Isn't that right, Mr. President
And in 2003
Mr. President
Do you remember, Mr. President?
You sent the National Guard to Iraq
One third of all of the National Guard
troops
In Louisiana, Mississippi, and Georgia
To the desert
Where they remain dry
And remain and remain
Dry
And remain and remain
Fighting your war of lies
Conceived in duplicity
And dedicated to the proposition
That young men and women can die
equally
For the multinationals
For your buddies' banks accounts
Soldiers dying
As their homes float in toxic soup
And their neighbors chant for help that
does not come
I guess we citizens
Just misunderstood which nation was
meant
By that name
National Guard
In 2004
Mr. President
You began robbing
The Federal Emergency Management
Agency
And giving its accounts to Homeland
Security
That absorbed FEMA like an ameba
feeding
To pay for spying on Grey Panthers
And the monthly high teas
Of middle aged peace activists
Mr. President
In 2004
Mr. President
The Army Corp of Engineers wanted to
study

How to protect New Orleans from floods
Mr. President
And you ordered the study abandoned.
And for good measure,
So they would know the price of disloyalty
To you and yours,
You cut from the federal budget
The money for the New Orleans
Army Corps of Engineers levee project
Even as local contractors
Worked for a year for free,
So dire were the predictions,
Mr. President.
In 2005
Mr. President
This year, remember, Mr. President?
You removed disaster preparedness
From FEMA's agenda
It's last great work, Mr. President
And gave more power to your
Homeland Security police state goons
FEMA that had a plan when Hurricane
Andrew struck
It's flesh now gone from its skeleton
Held up by strings on the porch
Like a cheap Halloween decoration made
in China.
But,
As I'm sure you will remind us often
When The White House speaks and spins
You cut short your month long vacation
By two days
And flew to your Washington DC seat of
power
A thousand miles further away from the
Gulf of Hell
Than you were in Crawford
Mr. President.
Showed you cared
From the safety of your oval office
Can you hear the cries of the dying from
there
Mr. President
Echoing above the dead wetlands?
Death upon death
With
Rescue efforts suspended for the first
time ever
In such a disaster!
Yours is an administration of firsts
We have to hand it to you
Mr. President.
Can you see the SOS signs
And the tears of a mayor
Begging for help
From the system to which he has
dedicated his life's work?
Do you hear the gun shots over the water
Mr. President?
The police officers in flooded streets
Begging for food and water
To keep working
Mr. President?
Do you see the bodies floating
And bloating
And stinking
Mr. President?
Do you hear the babies crying until they
can cry no more
Mr. President?
Not in a foreign land, Mr. President
Not Arab babies, Mr. President
Not partial birth babies, Mr. President



Not Afghani babies
 Not Thai babies
 Not African babies this time, Mr. President
 Not terrorist babies
 With cries too far away
 For you to hear, or care, I guess.
 No, Mr. President
 It's bayou babies now
 Louisiana babies, Mr. President
 Mississippi River babies, Mr. President
 French Quarter jazz babies, Mr. President
 American babies too young for your war,
 Mr. President
 Too young for choosing to believe your lies
 Mr. President
 Full birth babies, Mr. President
 Red State babies Mr. President!
 Is your heart so soaked with oil and greed
 That you cannot see the sheen of oil and
 shit
 On the rivers that used to be their
 neighborhoods
 Glistening like anti-rainbows swirling
 Around mothers wading to hope that is
 not there
 Mr. President?
 And the storms grow in fury each year
 Mr. President
 Did you notice?
 As the earth heats up
 From your oil
 From your arrogance
 From your wars
 From your lies.
 It's really true, isn't it?
 That one man can do so much!

Isn't that true Mr. President?
 One man's manifest destiny.
 Your monster offspring is born again
 A home birth this time
 Emerging from the surf
 On the shores of America
 Happy birthday
 Mr. President!
 Is this a great country or what,
 When a frat boy can run the free world
 Like a Kafka-esc cheerleader
 With nuclear pom poms
 While your home team of robber barons
 Barrels down the field to score
 In the end zone of the Astrodome Refugee
 Camp?
 Just another temple to change the money
 in
 While you shout pretty words
 About freedom and liberty and values and
 God.
 You lower the nation's flags to half staff
 for the Pope
 But not for Black Americans floating in
 the hood
 Even the Christian ones.
 So tell us
 What's the required yearly income for half
 staff?
 What's the power quotient for honor?
 Hell,
 You can't even make up your mind
 About which war and which reason for
 the war
 You are touting this week
 So why the hell would we expect you to

look
 Past your golf clubs to see
 Kyoto
 Afghanistan
 Sudan
 A free and defiant Osama Bin Laden
 An angry North Korea
 A crying Thailand
 A chuckling Iran
 Allies who can hardly say our name
 anymore
 And the death
 Beneath the Spanish moss and the
 magnolia trees
 In your own U. S. of A.?
 Perhaps,
 Mr. President,
 If you cleared a little more brush
 From your Texas ranch
 You could see
 The tears of Cindy Sheehan
 Becoming the tears of a nation
 Mr. President
 But you don't.
 And you won't.
 So I gotta say,
 Mr. President,
 I gotta say,
 May the ghosts of the Gulf
 Haunt you for all of your days!

gotta say,
 Mr. President,
 Fuck you Mr. President!
 Fuck you George Dubya Fucking Bush!
 Fuck you!
 You are not my president!
 I disavow you!
 I disown you!
 I deny you!
 You stole two elections
 And you wasted the office you stole
 To fatten your friends
 And yourself!
 You are a thief!
 A coward!
 A liar!
 A sycophant!
 And blood
 Is on your hands!
 You are no President of mine!
 No President of mine!
 Fuck you, George W. Bush!

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Sure

we've seen most of the films, sure some documentaries are ages old—but for the first time we saw complete programming, complete with commercials, news, and sensibilities that embodied who we are as a community. It has been more than just comforting and it has been intoxicating. For the first time ever, Gay America has a home on television where we can go to see ourselves. On Logo there are more than 200 LGBT films, an ongoing documentary series, newscasts tailored for a gay and lesbian audience and quality original shows and specials. It's programming that reflects our lives and that tells our stories.

WHAT IS IT?

Logo is **MTV Networks'** channel for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) audience, providing a mix of original and acquired entertainment that is smart, inclusive and authentic. Appealing to a broad range of LGBT viewers and to anyone enjoying great entertainment, Logo features a vast library of major film titles, documentaries, news coverage and quality original shows and specials. As an accurate reflection of the lives of the gay audience, Logo is a place where viewers can see themselves, and be themselves.

WHAT'S ON?

Currently in production is **First Comes Love**, with host **Scott Thompson** (*Kids In The Hall*) which takes us through love stories and party planning fiascos as we watch gay and lesbian couples planning commitment/marriage ceremonies. Also **Noah's Arc**, a comedy about a group of African-American gay men living in Santa Monica. The documentary series, **Real Momentum**, tells the stories of gay rugby

players, transgender actresses, and teens with same-sex parents. Logo also teamed up with CBS News to cover LGBT stories and headlines from their news desk.

This month will see the network premiere of **Angels In America**, as well as new episodes of the Logo original reality series **Open Bar** starring Tyler Robuck. **Open Bar** follows one man's personal decision to come out as gay to family and friends, told against the backdrop of his work to open a new gay bar in West Hollywood. From the ground breaking to the grand opening, **Open Bar** tracks the entrepreneurial owner as he balances his new personal and professional endeavors.

WHERE IS IT?

www.directTV.com
www.logoonline.com

sacramento goes LOCO for

SINCE THE FIRST DAY LOGO
APPEARED ON LOCAL DIRECTTV,
SACRAMENTO HASN'T BEEN
ABLE TO FLIP THE STATION.



LOGO GETS REAL:

OPEN BAR



Every network has a reality show...

or ten. Why would gay programming be any different? Except that the men would be hotter and the subject matter slightly more adult. Logo has done both in the limited run of the show *Open Bar*. This new series follows Tyler Robuck' personal decision to come out as a gay man to his family and friends, as he begins the task of opening a new gay bar in West Hollywood called i-Candy. From the ground breaking to the grand opening, *Open Bar* tracks this hot and hunky entrepreneurial owner as he balances his new personal and professional endeavors.

One of the most interesting factors of the show is that Robuck, age 34, still isn't comfortable being openly gay. Captain of his high school football team, college frat boy and University of Southern California MBA graduate, there is little on the macho side of life that he can't lay claim to. Then the straight was shed and he took up residence in West Hollywood to open a gay bar that puts most to shame.

Cast

Tyler

Tyler Robuck is the owner of iCandy Lounge and the main character on *Open Bar*.

Adam

Adam is Tyler's assistant on *Open Bar*.

Yawar

Yawar is the young, hip, club-goer type and General Manager of iCandy.

Gary

Gary is the foreman on *Open Bar*, handling the construction issues and more.

Richard

Richard is a restaurant consultant and the guy Tyler relies on to take him from A to Z.

Tyrone

Tyrone is a professional dancer and Tyler's new roommate in West Hollywood.

Benjamin

Benjamin is Tyler's ex-boyfriend makes his living as a dancer and model.

Episode Guide

Welcome to iCandy

Join Tyler Robuck, fresh out of the closet, as he struggles to connect with the LGBT community by opening a gay bar in West Hollywood. Ignoring his family's words of caution, Tyler dives head first into the project but quickly realizes that he may just be in over his head.

Tyler gets advice from his mom about opening a lounge.

Episode 101:

Welcome to I Candy

Join Tyler Robuck, fresh out of the closet, as he struggles to connect with the LGBT community by opening a gay bar in West Hollywood. Ignoring his family's words of caution, Tyler dives head first into the project but quickly realizes that he may just be

Episode 102:

One Step Forward, Two Steps Back

Eager to get back on track, Tyler reunites with Heyman but they soon encounter more problems, this time with the city permits. Meanwhile, the new general manager Yawar has his hands full hunting out staff for the bar.

Episode 103:

Trial by Fire

Things are finally looking up for Tyler that is until the day of the taste-testing he throws for his investors. Will one less-than-equipped kitchen and two irritable managers ruin Tyler's big day?

Episode 104:

The Best Laid Plans

Time and money are both in short supply as opening day draws near. Tyler takes out some personal time to work on his love life, but a short visit from his mother swiftly pulls him back into the fray.

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SCREEN

Mysterious Skin

Starring Brady Corbet,
Joseph Gordon-Levitt
Directed by Gregg Araki
(RATED NC-17, 99 MIN.)

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

by Stefan Gruenwedel

Child abuse and alien abductions don't at first seem to have anything in common. But both are shrouded in secrecy and mystery. Both wreak havoc on the lives of their victims.

Even when they come forward to tell others, they face skepticism from friends and family members. Alien abductions sound absurd from the get-go, of course, but from a victim's perspective, those deaf ears don't make things easier.

Gregg Araki's drama *Mysterious Skin* is not exactly about space aliens. It's about the effect that the concept of space aliens has on the mind—and how its sinister influence can mask more earthbound traumas.

Brian (**Brady Corbet**) is a troubled high school graduate living in a small Kansas town who obsesses about a moment in his childhood ten years ago when five hours disappeared from his life. Nightmares plague him about that time. He remains a loner throughout school, consoling himself in books, TV, and his thoughts. When he catches a TV show about UFOs, he makes the connection and convinces himself that he too was abducted by aliens.

Meanwhile classmate Neil (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) goes through his teenage years much differently. He's captivated by his flourishing sexuality and good looks. He captivates others as well—especially the men who cruise a neighborhood park looking for sex.

Yet underneath his youthful bravado about having “done” every man in the park, there's an undeniable sense of destructiveness, not to mention naiveté, that drives it.

Although he is closed off emotionally from others, Neil remains tight with Wendy (**Michelle Trachtenberg**), a “fag hag” who had a crush on him way back but became his closest confidant instead—thus saving the world, as Neil puts it, from yet another unwanted pregnancy had they become lovers. There's also Eric (**Jeff Licon**), a flamboyant queer youth who has a crush on him but knows it probably won't go anywhere.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY TARTAN FILMS

JOSEPH GORDON-LEVITT AND BRADY CORBETT IN MYSTERIOUS SKIN

Neil's sexual expertise stems from his boyhood encounters with his soccer coach (**Bill Sage**), who rewarded his athletic performance on the field with invitations to movies out and games in bed. Neil's divorced mother (**Elisabeth Shue**) is only too happy that her boy has a handsome, doting father figure who's eager to take the boy off her hands so she can go out with boyfriends. Neil is only too happy to be pleased—and pleased.

Sexual initiation among youth is often depicted in movies in an overly dramatic manner but *Mysterious Skin* takes a subtler approach to its unnerving subject matter. Rather than playing the coach as a villain, the film shows him as the kind of adult figure that a child might happily imagine: a playful, gentle man who devotes quality time with him.

This technique works because the film makes considerable use of a subjective lens, where characters speak directly to the audience and what we see is how they see things. Boys see their surroundings much differently than a dispassionate adult would.

Even so, a definite sense of creepiness and nervousness pervades

the film as we realize what the child protagonist does not.

Brian's investigation into his childhood abduction—with the help of a young woman living nearby, whose own UFO story was portrayed on the TV show that initially caught his attention—brings him to Neil, whom he believes has the answer to what tormented him a decade earlier.

With its nonlinear storyline, carefully paced acting, moody lighting, and dreamy music, *Mysterious Skin* is a far cry from Araki's earlier work—especially his earlier “Doom Generation trilogy” that was marred by sexually charged, youth-oriented pretensions and bad acting. This is a much more mature effort, perhaps because it's the first time Araki has adapted someone else's material for the screen, namely **Scott Heim**'s novel of the same name.

As Brian chases his demons, and Neil helps exorcise them, hope emerges that both will heal themselves and move on.

***Mysterious Skin* opens mid-September at the Crest Theatre in Sacramento. Info: www.mysteriouskinthemovie.com.**

Each year around National Coming Out Day, the Sacramento International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (SIGLFF) makes its annual appearance and this year is no different.

SWANNER AND JUDD

AHMED'S MOM PAYS A SURPRISE VISIT IN CAIRO CALLING

SWANNER Five days of short films, documentaries and features all focusing on GLBT issues. As Julie Andrews would say, "Let's start at the very beginning..." Wow, that was a really gay thing to say.

JUDD We would expect nothing less than really gay from you. The first night of this year's festival will be all short films. I enjoyed the majority of the shorts this year, and the ones that I didn't enjoy—well, at least I had the luxury of fast-forwarding through them—unlike if I were at the festival. The best short of the first evening is *Billy's Dad is a Fudge Packer*. It was Hilarious!

SWANNER I liked quite a few of the shorts and I liked *Billy's Dad is a Fudge Packer* a lot, as well, and I agree it was the best of the first night's shorts, but Prom-toversy was also very good. It was about a butch girl taking the prom queen to the dance. *Ryan's Life* felt like the short called *Trevor* several years ago. Hung was another that I liked quite a bit. So, Bitter, were there any you didn't like?

JUDD Actually, you didn't mention

Recruiting, which was another that I really liked. It was about straights recruiting gays into their lifestyle. It was funny until it started getting deeper and it ended on disturbing note. I think it's amazing to have so much well-done transition in a 9-minute film. As for not liking any—I didn't like *Dani & Alice*, *Licking Our Wounds* or *Kathleen's Closet*; the worst being *Licking Our Wounds*. It started out OK, but then the film takes a weird turn at its most pivotal point, and it made me feel a bit...well, icky.

SWANNER I didn't like *Dani & Alice*, either. It tells the story of two women in a domestic violence relationship. It was really ugly when she slams that woman's head on the dashboard. *Starcrossed* was a bit uncomfortable about two step-brothers in a relationship but that's what is so nice about short films. If you don't like one there will be another one in just a few minutes and it will be totally different. Wednesday night's program is my favorite of the festival.

JUDD Thursday, there is going to be a short documentary called

In My Shoes. It's an interesting piece about children growing up with GLBT parents. If any of our readers happened to see the Transmen when the **Lambda Players** brought them here last year, **Prado Gomez** and his niece were one of the families profiled. The other Thursday film is, *This Way Out*, which we unable to see before press time.

SWANNER It's always interesting to see a familiar face in a documentary. *In My Shoes* was a good little film. Friday night brings us a drama about an Iranian lesbian that flees to Germany to escape criminal prosecution only to find more of it when she arrives in Germany.

JUDD The title of Friday's film is *Unveiled*. The description of the movie sounds very interesting. Unfortunately, the movie is far from it. It moves at a snail's pace—and I like slow movies that allow the viewer to get a feel for the character and what they are going through. But *Unveiled* moves too slow and I never got a feeling for any of the characters or just what kind of danger they were in—and we're talking about persecution based on sexual orientation! A topic "ripped from the headlines" as they say, *Unveiled* comes across as bland and ambling.

SWANNER Saturday night is a fun night with a couple of shorts and the feature *Guys and Balls*. This feature is also a German film about a young man outed in front of his soccer team and then shunned by the town. He challenges his old soccer team to play against an all-gay soccer team that he needs to pull together in three weeks.

JUDD I didn't think that I was going to like *Guys and Balls*, but I was pleasantly surprised. While I don't think the film was great or groundbreaking, it is a light-hearted and entertaining story. The featured shorts for the evening are *Lonely 15*, a cartoon dealing with the issue of size—it was cute. The other short, *Hitch Cock*, was amateurish and boring. It's a poorly written, one-trick pony that gets old really fast. Thankfully, the film is only 10 minutes long.

SWANNER I felt the same way. The short on size was sweet and has a good moral, but that *Hitch Cock* was probably the least favorite short that we saw. *Guys and Balls* was very entertaining and had the ending I wanted to see. We were only able to get about half the shorts that will be run on Sunday. Christopher & Gordy had a nice political statement about how evil George W. Bush is, and *Healing* was interesting, but disturbing. Moustache, about a woman who can't seem to stop that little moustache from growing, was very funny.

JUDD Just for Leather had some hunky Leathermen and Bears for those who fancy that type and included a good ending. I didn't care for *Everything Good*. It was sad and depressing. The best one on Sunday is called *Getting to Know You* which is about a woman who just can't seem to find the right woman until she tries a little phone sex. It was well made and well acted.

SWANNER I agree. That's what our own festival does so well, offer up a great variety of films. I'm looking forward to seeing them up on that big screen.

The Sacramento International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival has been a cornerstone of our community for the past 14 years. What started out a small weekend of films with a handful of motivated volunteers has turned into a major five-day event that draws attendees from up and down Northern California, and is planned and operated by a 23+ person team. This year the Film Festival will host two feature nights, a documentary night and two shorts nights. Here's a look at what is being offered this year. For additional and detailed information, please pick up the 2005 SIGLFF program, available from most community locations and at the MGW Offices.

WED 10/5

BIKINI

DIRECTOR - LASSE PERSSON, SWEDEN, 2004

A young man borrows his mother's bikini without her knowing and goes to the beach. He meets a couple of happy twins and their lady friend but... his mother will show up too... 7min

PROM-TROVERSY

DIRECTOR - LEANNA CREEL, USA, 2004

It's time for the prom in Sherman Valley, Ohio and Cassie Stephens wants to run for prom king, but not if some concerned mothers and the Defense of Prom Initiative organization have anything to say about that. 12min

RECRUITING

DIRECTORS - BOBBY ROGER POIRIER & JAMES NOEL HOBAN, USA, 2005

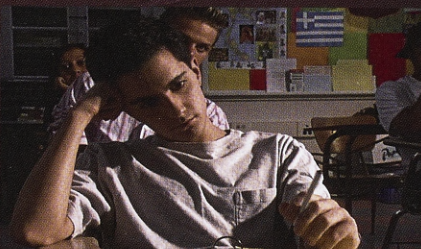
What is identity, and what is its price? This film takes the standard right wing notion of the "homosexual agenda" and turns it on its head. What if they didn't want to punish homosexuality, but rather co-opt it. 9min



KATHLEEN'S CLOSET

DIRECTOR - SHEILA JORDAN, CANADA, 2005

On a wet November evening, fate throws together Janet and Kathleen. Janet discovers a treasure trove from that time long ago when speakeasies spoke and Jazz babies dared. 13min



RYAN'S LIFE

DIRECTOR - NICK WAUTERS, USA 2004

Complications arise for high school student Ryan as he begins to wonder if he might be gay. 24min

HOMOLULU SHOW

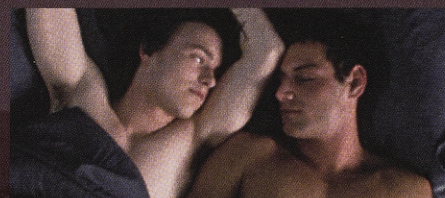
DIRECTOR - FRANK MOSVOLD, NORWAY, 2004

Henry and Frank live in Homolulu. They have been married for many years. Henry doesn't think heterosexuals should be allowed to marry. 1min

LICKING OUR WOUNDS

DIRECTOR - WENDY DALLAS, USA, 2005

Against a background of lost love and fallen friends, Maria plunges full force into life honoring Peter's last wish in an unusual act of friendship and grace. 16min



STARCROSSED

DIRECTOR - JAMES BURKHAMMER I, USA, 2004

Set in a suburban neighborhood, this is an atmospheric story of two brothers whose relationship develops into something more than society could ever handle. 15min

DANI & ALICE

DIRECTOR - ROBERTA MARIE MUNROE, USA, 2005

The last hours of a couple's deeply tumultuous relationship, as they prepare to go to their favorite girl bar. 12min

CAIRO CALLING

DIRECTORS - JOSEPH ANTAKI & XIAODAN HE, CANADA, 2005

Ahmed's tranquil life in Montreal goes into a tailspin when his meddling mother visits from Cairo with a single purpose in mind... 9min



HUNG

DIRECTOR - GUINEVERE TURNER, USA, 2005

With the help of a magic potion, five lesbian friends experience a penis for 24 hours. 12min

14TH ANNUAL SACRAMENTO INTERNATIONAL GAY & LESBIAN

BILLY'S DAD IS A FUDGE PACKER

DIRECTOR - JAMIE DONAHUE, USA, 2004
Young Billy is guided to the "right" life path. 12min

THURS 10/6

IN MY SHOES: STORIES OF YOUTH WITH LGBT PARENTS

DIRECTOR - JEN GILOMEN, USA, 2005
While courts, politicians, religious figures, and advocates duke out the definition of "marriage," five young people share their unique perspectives on same-sex marriage and family. 30min

THIS WAY OUT

DIRECTOR - JILL BURNETT, CANADA & FRANCE, 2004
This documentary is about the flight of 3 refugees who claimed asylum in the US to escape persecution based on their sexual orientation. Told entirely through their own words, the film describes the vulnerability under which lesbians and gays live in most parts of the world, and their search not only for a safe haven, but a dignified existence - as homosexuals. 32min

FRI 10/7

UNVEILED

DIRECTOR - ANGELINA MACCARONE, GERMANY, 2005
German & Farsi with English subtitles
Fariba, prosecuted in Iran because of her love for a woman, flees to Germany. But her application for asylum is turned down. Her desperate prospects drive her to extreme measures to stay alive. 100min



SAT 10/8

LONELY 15

DIRECTORS - FRANK MOSVOLD & TOM PETTER HANSEN, NORWAY, 2004
Peter desperately hopes size does not matter. 3min

HITCH COCK

DIRECTOR - STUART VAUVERT, AUSTRALIA, 2005
Susan would like to cordially invite you to a dinner party to help celebrate her perfect married life with Steve. Unfortunately, it may not be as perfect as she thinks, as Steve realizes he likes the "COCK au Vin" a little too much. 10min



GUYS AND BALLS

DIRECTOR - SHERRY HORMAN, GERMANY, 2004
German with English subtitles
Ecki is a young soccer player already under pressure for playing badly, his homophobic team-members find out that he is gay and throw him off the team. With the help of his sister and a cranky former soccer star, he tries to form an all-gay football team to challenge his old team in a grudge match. 106min

SUN 10/9

CHRISTOPHER & GORDY

DIRECTORS - FRANK MOSVOLD & TOM PETTER HANSEN, NORWAY, 2004
This animated short deals with the big issues: church, politics, big business and homosexuality. 5min



SIGMUND FREUD

DIRECTORS - KAMI CHISHOLM & JENNIFER GILOMEN, USA, 2005
In this campy, fantastical animated short all the patients are well-known dolls and puppets. 7min

HEALING

DIRECTOR - ANDREW BETTRIDGE, AUSTRALIA, 2004
A virus has rendered humans incapable of feeling love; young punk Natch makes a living doling out physical pain to clients, which seemingly "reboots" their capacity for love. 11min

TEEN CHRISTIAN BEACH PARTY

DIRECTOR - RICHARD VETTE, AUSTRALIA, 2004
We are headed off to the ocean for a camp homage to faith-based sex education. 4min

MOUSTACHE

DIRECTOR - VICKIE SUGARS, CANADA, 2004
Sometimes it doesn't pay to change your true self for the person you love. 14min

JUST FOR LEATHER

DIRECTOR - LAWRENCE FERRARA, USA, 2004
An erotic and amusing vignette, "Just for Leather" reveals the allure that a leather bar holds on a novice. 5min

BETWEEN THE BOYS

DIRECTOR - JAKE YUZNA, USA, 2004
Eric and Paul live together, shower together, and wrestle together, but their relationship is not what you think. 4min

EVERYTHING GOOD

DIRECTOR - ELIZABETH MCCARTHY, USA, 2004
One evening in an Amsterdam hotel, Lila keeps a commitment to herself and hires a sex worker to pay her a visit. Comedic moments yield to poignant realities where risk is rewarded with one morsel of truth. 17min

GRANNY QUEER THE LATE BLOOMERS

DIRECTOR - JACINDA KLOUWENS, CANADA, 2004
Granny Queer and her voluptuous girlfriend Sharlene are enjoying a nice Saturday morning lie-in when Granny sees that Sharlene's bloomers have gone missing from the line. Granny suspects their mysterious new neighbor Mr. Wit has something to do with it, and she's determined to get to the bottom of the matter. 7min

WORK IT OUT

DIRECTOR - KYMVAITEKUS, AUSTRALIA, 2004
This film from Down Under opens in a mechanic's garage where, at the end of a hot day, a customer's last-minute request takes its toll. 3min

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

DIRECTOR - LIZ LACHMAN, USA, 2004
Elizabeth Keener stars as Tenny Bell, a newspaper cartoonist who delves into her own unusual life as a source for her comic strip. Bell is searching for that one true love that will complete her life. Unfortunately, her fixation on the outer rather than the inner beauty of women sets her up for failure.

film festival

OCT 5-9, 2005

Founded by Allen Cole,

the Film Festival officially began in 1992, based on the student run gay and lesbian film festival at Fresno State. Organizers joined forces with the students from the California State University, Sacramento Gay and Lesbian Alliance and the brothers of the Delta Lambda Phi Fraternity and received grant funds from CSUS Associated Students Inc. to use as seed money and get the Festival started.

Held on October 8th, 1992, the first year was a big success, with a sold out, one evening event at the Crest Theater. We continue this tradition of presenting the Festival in early October to celebrate "National Coming Out Day."

Since then, the festival has gone on to become a way to bring a diverse collection of gay and lesbian cinematic works to the Sacramento area. It's humble beginnings are a far cry from the 5-days of films and gala events that is it now.

Each year brings growth and opportunities to show more films, give more money to beneficiaries, and support our newest program, providing completion grants to film makers.

ONE NIGHT: \$9

ALL NIGHTS: \$35

OPENING NIGHT GALA PLUS WEDNESDAY NIGHT : \$35

GALA PLUS ALL NIGHTS: \$60

GET TICKETS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

WWW.THECREST.COM, WWW.BEATSACRAMENTO.COM,

WWW.TICKETS.COM

*Tickets may be purchased at the Crest Theater box office on a first come, first serve basis.

2005 Beneficiaries

Golden Rule Services: Golden Rule Services, Inc. is a minority based nonprofit organization that resolves health, education, employment and criminal justice disparities in People of Color communities through culturally competent programs and resources. GRS proudly provides free HIV education, reduction reduction workshops, HIV testing and community and online health outreach. This year GRS received a proclamation from Assemblyman Dave Jones commemorating its 5th year in community service and received the prestigious 2005 "Fighting AIDS Award" from the Lambda Community Fund. GRS currently has Sacramento's only HIV prevention program for local African American same gender loving men and youth, has completed Sacramento County's first needs assessment for African American same gender loving men and has subcontracted with Sacramento County to design and implement its first social marketing campaign for African American same gender loving men.

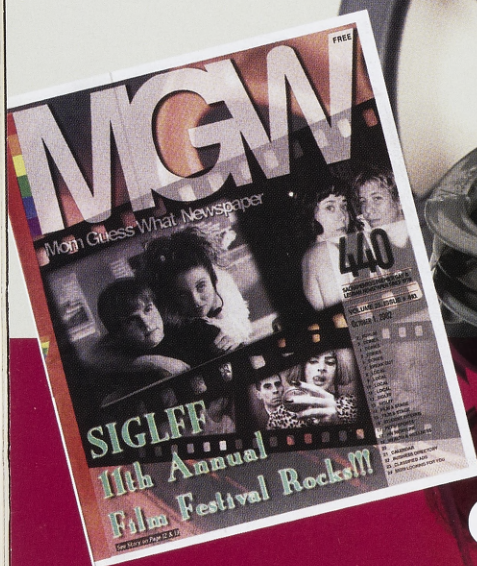
1115 21st Street Suite B | Sacramento, Ca 95814
(916) 446-AIDS | www.goldenrules.info

True Colors Women's Chorus: True Colors is a performance-oriented choral group whose focus is women's issues, social justice, peace, environmental issues, and LGBT pride. We are lesbian, straight, and bisexual women raising our voices together to entertain and educate our audiences, as well as celebrate our lives and the lives of all women.

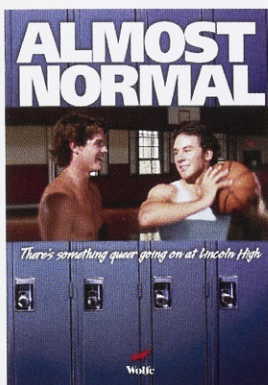
True Colors began over 18 years ago as the Sacramento Women's Chorus and is one of the oldest women's choruses in the United States. True Colors is a member of the Sister Singers Network (a national network of women's choruses) and GALA Choruses (the international Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses). We performed at the quadrennial GALA Festivals in 2000 (San Jose) and 2004 (Montreal) and we plan to perform at the May, 2006 Sister Singers Retreat in San Diego and the 2008 GALA Festival (location TBA).

True Colors seeks to perform widely to support the causes that are a part of our mission. In addition to the 2 concerts of our own that we produce annually we have performed for: Peace and Labor rallies, Women Take Back the Night, Sacramento Pride, the PFLAG Service of Remembrance, August Women's Peace Event, Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, and the Rainbow Festival, just to name a few. We have also had the pleasure of opening for several Holly Near concerts.

True Colors Women's Chorus is open to all women who love singing and the challenge of learning new, inspiring music. Although performance oriented, the group encompasses all skill levels and offers its members a supportive environment for singing and learning together. Prospective members should be willing to make a commitment to attend rehearsals regularly. Weekly rehearsals are held every Monday night from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more information or to schedule a visit, email truecolorschorus@aol.com. More information about True Colors Women's Chorus is available on our website at: <http://hometown.aol.com/sacwomenschorus>



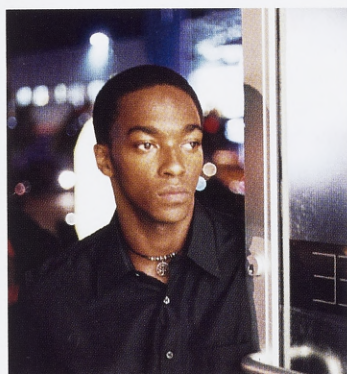
SIGLIFE HISTORY



ALMOST NORMAL

RELEASE DATE: NOV. 15

Brad Jenkins is gay, 40 and still single. He confides his best friend since high school, that he wishes he could just be normal. Maybe then he could have scored with the hottest jock at his school. Suddenly taken back in time, Brad wakes up and finds himself back in high school in a world which is now gay and being heterosexual is considered deviant behavior.



BROTHER TO BROTHER

The inspiring story of Perry, a young black artist kicked out of his family home for being gay. Trapped between the worlds of the black community and the gay community, Perry searches for a connection in the real world and discovers Bruce Nugent, a poet/painter from the queer edge of the Harlem Renaissance. Bruce exposes Perry to the legacy and hardships of pioneering black artists, such as Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston and Wallace Thurman.

GIRL PLAY

The story of two actresses unexpectedly falling in love while rehearsing a stage play, stars Robin Greenspan and Lacie Harmon, who shared the Best Actress prize at the 2004 edition of Outfest, and features cult icon Mink Stole and veteran comedic actor Dom Deluise. Based on the play "Real Girls," which played to sold-out audiences across the US.

STARTED BY KATHY WOLFE IN 1984, WOLFE HAS BEEN THE LARGEST EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR OF GAY AND LESBIAN ENTERTAINMENT IN NORTH AMERICA. IN ADDITION TO THEATRICAL DISTRIBUTION AND TELEVISION SALES, WOLFE IS WELL KNOWN FOR ITS EXPERT DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH MAJOR RETAILERS, INCLUDING BLOCKBUSTER, AMAZON.COM, AND VIRGIN MEGASTORE, TO NAME A FEW, AS WELL AS A VERY LUCRATIVE MAIL-ORDER BUSINESS.

Due to the company's web of corporate relationships and customers, Wolfe is now positioned as an important gateway for companies trying to reach the gay and lesbian audience. Through these relationships and its enormous and loyal customer base, Wolfe has been essential to the mainstreaming of LGBT entertainment.

Wolfe was instrumental in mainstreaming gay/lesbian film to a wide, general audience. While gay films played theatrically in major metropolitan areas and film festivals, Wolfe and President Maria Lynn brokered the first deals to get these films into Blockbuster stores across the country, as well as other major retailers and "retailers" like Virgin, Wherehouse and Amazon.com. Essentially, the company proved that gay films could be profitable when marketed effectively to the mainstream audience on home video. And, in the meantime, the rest of world was exposed to the spectrum of gay/lesbian life.



LOVE IN THOUGHTS

RELEASE DATE: OCT. 18

Written and directed by Achim Von Borries, who previously wrote the German hit Good Bye LENIN, which also starred Daniel Bruehl, Love in Thoughts is a twisted love story set in 1920s Germany. Visually

astounding and artistically broody, it is a mixture of angst and beauty with a shocking ending that will haunt audiences

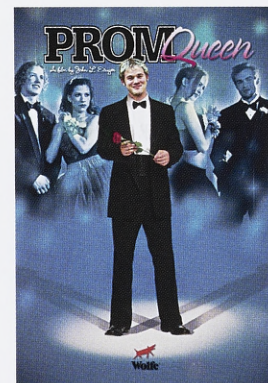
MY MOTHER LIKES WOMEN

An uproarious comedy about three sisters whose lives are thrown off-kilter by their mother's sudden sexual awakening. Sofia, a renowned pianist, is long separated from the daughters' father. On the occasion of her birthday, she delivers a stunning announcement: she has fallen in love again—with a woman. Screwball comedy takes hold as the daughters begin to feel threatened by their mother's new lifestyle

PRODUCING ADULTS

Fertility counselor Venla desperately wants a baby. Her aspiring speed-

skater boyfriend Antero will seemingly go to any lengths to avoid becoming a parent. Venla's colleague Satu, a sympathetic female doctor, suggests a solution: an "after hours" insemination at the clinic. This daring plan becomes complicated when, to her surprise, Venla develops romantic feelings for Satu.



PROM QUEEN: The Marc Hall Story

The story of Marc Hall, a popular, out gay teenager from Ontario. It's prom time, and Marc and his pals are making plans for the big dance. But their dreams of the big night come to a halt when the school tells Marc he can't bring his boyfriend, and the other kids rally behind him to protest this decision. To Marc's surprise, the media picks up the cause, and in time, the decision goes all the way to the Canadian Supreme Court.



ROUND TRIP

RELEASE DATE: SEPT. 20

Nurit has grown tired of supporting her ne'er do well husband, and dreams of a better life in the big city. She takes her two kids to Tel Aviv and soon finds work doing what she does best, driving a bus. She hires Mushidi, an illegal immigrant from Ghana, as a live-in nanny who, instead of paying rent, will cook and care for the children. With the help of Mushidi, Nurit discovers new things about herself and redefines her motherhood and femininity.

4 NEW TITLES YOU'LL HAVE TO HAVE ON YOUR SHELF

LIBERTY: 3 STORIES ABOUT LIFE & DEATH

55 MINUTES

The recently released "Liberty" is an award-winning documentary with unusual access to the inner lives of three lesbian women and their close circle of friends and lovers. Liberty dispels misinformation about age, sexual orientation, and the end-of-life experience. This compelling documentary tells the truth about lesbian lives and makes an important contribution to the debate that's raging in our culture as we redefine "family" and wrestle with the concepts of community, commitment and sexuality. Powerful and beautifully filmed, an amazing testimony to the subjects of the film. newday.com

CALL TO WITNESS

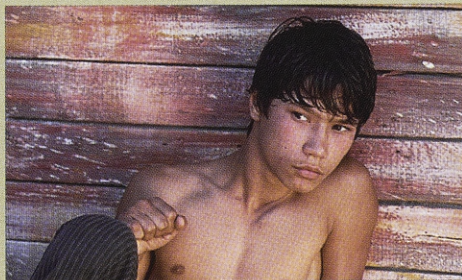
59 MINUTES

The stories of Rev. Steve Sabin in Iowa, who was outed by his bishop, supported by his congregation, and "tried" by the national church because he refused to resign; Rev. Jane Ralph in Missouri, who was forced out of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America with no recourse; and Pastoral Minister Anita C. Hill in Minnesota, who at the time was working to be ordained as an openly lesbian pastor. Also includes the stories of two San Francisco congregations

that defied the ELCA in 1990 by calling Revs. Ruth Frost, Phyllis Zillhart, and Jeff Johnson, openly gay and lesbian pastors not on the approved ELCA roster, an interview with Reverend Joseph Wagner, ELCA Division for Ministry, and Bishop Charles Maahs, ELCA Conference of Bishops. Also, told is the vigilant work of Lutheran Lesbian and Gay Ministries as they support pastors and congregations who are being forced out of the ELCA. A truly moving piece. Call to Witness is available for rental netflix.com and will be broadcast in 2005

Logo Networks.

pamwaltonproductions.com



SCHIZO

86 MINUTES

Guka Omarova's highly acclaimed debut feature, Schizo, an official selection of 2004's Cannes (Un Certain Regard), Tokyo, Chicago, Copenhagen, and Karlovy Vary International Film Festivals is has finally made its way to DVD. Schizo tells the story of a 15-year-old boy in Kazakhstan, who, at the behest of his mother's low-life boyfriend, procures young boxers for illegal fights so other men can gamble. When one of the

young recruits lies dying in the ring from a vicious blow to the head, he asks Schizo to deliver his prize money to his 28-year-old girlfriend and young son. Schizo finds the pair living in a tiny shack in the middle of nowhere and not only falls in love with the woman, but also takes her young son under his wing. With new purpose, Schizo sets out to support his adopted family the only way he knows how.

Picture This! Entertainment



YOUNG GODS

100 MINUTES

18-year-old Taavi, who never goes anywhere without his video camera, and his young and wealthy friends find themselves on the cusp of adulthood. After throwing a wild party at the mansion left to him by his deceased parents, Taavi shoots video of the party-goers in their various states of undress and drunken sexual congress. What begins as a prank spurs Taavi and his friends Jere, Sami, and Markus to form a club, the only requirement for admission being that each young man must bring a tape of his latest sexual conquest to every club meeting.

Picture This! Entertainment

DVD

COMMENTARY

If It Quacks Like a Duck

By Sam Catalano

Wow, two letters to the editor in two issues—that means someone is reading my column. First, to David Urman, who complimented me on my “ability to articulate the outrage so many of us feel...” I want to say, “David, if you’re single and a bottom, let’s get married.” And then to Darren Miller, who was so dismayed at my name-calling like “neo-fascist Jeb Bush” and “Murder-Airhead George Bush”, I dedicate this column. Mr. Miller stated that he hoped this isn’t indicative of the majority of my work—he obviously has not read my previous columns or watched Being Gay Today.

Mr. Miller raises an interesting idea—is there any value to “name-calling?” From the perspective of a rational discourse on politics, sans emotion, of course not. From the perspective of trying to change the minds of all republican neo-fascists, of course not. From the perspective of “turn the other cheek” and “love conquerors hate,” of course not. But sometimes when no one will listen, name calling makes me feel better.

One of my favorite expressions is—“It’s 1939, I’m a Jew in Nazi Germany and I am not going quietly or politely.” From my perspective, I see a political party and a president and a governor of Florida and all the republican members of the CA State Legislature who want to deny my ability to take care of those I love. There is no stronger emotion than the desire to protect and care for family. And if some jackass says I am not worthy of the 1500 benefits that convicted heterosexual serial killers are entitled to when they marry—then, big surprise, it makes me very angry. And when I’m angry I let the folks who want to write me out of both the state and federal constitution that “this is one ‘Jew’ who will fight back.”

When some hypocritical admitted adulterer, like Sen. Dennis Hollingsworth (R), says I’m a threat to the “holy and sacred institution of marriage” and that two men who love each other cannot be a family—I will take him on politically and verbally. Not in a friendly, intellectual, love conquerors all way—but by letting him know that “I’m as angry as hell and I’m not going to take it any longer.” I am going to YELL BACK! I am going to SCREAM BACK! I am going to FIGHT BACK! And sometimes, that involves name-calling.

THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES (CDHS) RELEASED THE RESULTS OF FIVE POPULATION-BASED STUDIES SHOWING SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER SMOKING RATES FOR THE ACTIVE MILITARY STATIONED IN CALIFORNIA, KOREAN MEN AND THOSE IDENTIFIED AS LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL OR TRANSGENDER (LGBT), COMPARED TO THE GENERAL CALIFORNIA ADULT POPULATION.

This first-ever population-specific data are in contrast to the state’s overall smoking prevalence, which is at historic lows. The new data also show that Chinese and Asian Indian Californians smoke at considerably lower rates than the general population.

Key findings show smoking prevalence in the LGBT community was 30.4 percent—double the state average of 15.4 percent. Among active military stationed in California, Marines reported the highest smoking rate of 26.9 percent—33 percent more than the Navy (20.2 percent) and 50 percent more than the Army (17.8 percent) and Air Force (17.5 percent). Although the Korean population had an overall smoking rate of 15.3 percent, Korean men smoked at 27.9 percent—46 percent higher than California men overall. In contrast, the Chinese and Asian Indian smoking prevalence rates were much lower than the state average at 7.7 percent and 5.5 percent, respectively.

“California’s tobacco education programs have had great success in reducing the state’s overall smoking prevalence,” said Sandra Shewry, Director of CDHS. “These studies show marked disparities among California’s communities and confirm that we must continue our efforts so all of our communities can avoid the disease and death caused by tobacco addiction.”

TOBACCO USE BEHAVIOR

- Smoking prevalence for the overall LGBT population is almost double that of the general population in the 2002 California Tobacco Survey, 30.4% vs.15.4%.
- LGBT women’s smoking prevalence is almost triple that of general population women (32.5% vs. 11.9%).
- LGBT men’s smoking prevalence is about 50% higher than general population men (27.4% vs. 19.1%).
- Women who don’t self-identify as LGBT, but have same-sex behavior have a significantly higher smoking prevalence than that of self-identified LGBT women and general population women (37.6% vs. 28.8% and 11.9%).
- Among all LGBT age groups, young adults 18-24 have the highest smoking prevalence (43.7%).
- Among smokers, LGBT women are more likely to be daily smokers (23.7%) than general population women (8.9%).
- LGBT smokers are willing to quit. The majority of LGBT smokers reported a quit attempt within the last year (62.7%).
- About one out five LGBT former smokers report having taken a puff of a cigarette in the past 30 days, indicating the risk of relapse.

LGBT SMOKERS DOUBLE STATE AVERAGE



SOAPBOX

twenty one

21

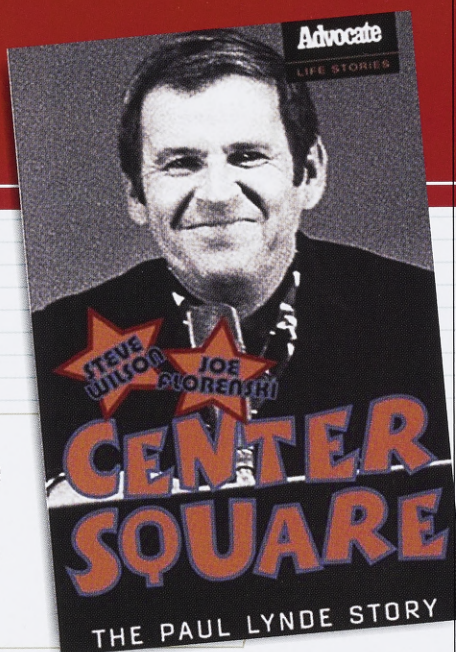
Center Square

The Paul Lynde Story

Softcover 256 pages

ADVOCATE BOOKS

ISBN: 155583793X



SQUARE PEG

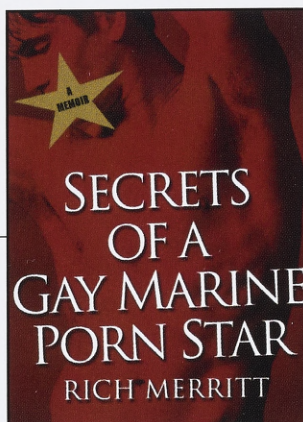
by Michael Shanahan

In an age when celebrities have turned the act of coming out into an empowering media event, **Paul Lynde** certainly seems like a campy relic of less liberated times.

This view of Lynde as an out-of-step, self-loathing queen of queens overlooks the man's great, if accidental achievement: getting away with being gay on TV on an almost daily basis for years. During his three decades as a popular character actor on television, film, and the stage, this fairy forefather's arch and bitchy wit snuck regular doses of the queer world into that bastion of intolerance, the American living room. Lynde showed mainstream viewers that a gay man could deliver the jokes, not just be the butt of them. In doing so, he helped make homosexuality more palatable to unwitting viewers who simply saw him a stylish, funny man. Biographers **Steve Wilson** and **Joe Florenski** draw on revealing interviews with friends from Lynde's childhood, college days, and adult years—including stars such as **Phyllis Diller**, **Charlotte Rae**, **Cloris Leachman**, and **Peter Marshall**, who worked with Lynde in Broadway productions and in film and television. What emerges is a memorable portrait of a man who reaped his share of wealth, enjoyed a fair amount of fame, and basked in the adoration of thousands of fans—but paid a price in hardship, heartbreak, and hangovers. Shortly before his death Lynde finally overcame the alcohol addiction that had driven him to truly nasty behavior. Biographers Steve Wilson and Joe Florenski have also uncovered the true story behind Lynde's death, which has been the source of much prurient speculation. Though Paul compromised himself in many ways, he never changed who he was. Paul was a lot of things, but no one could ever accuse him of being a phony.

Wilson met cobiographer Florenski while researching an article on Paul Lynde for *Out* magazine in 2000. He ran across Florenski's Web site devoted to Lynde. Begun in 1997, the site contains exhaustive resources on Lynde, and Florenski has lent research support to both E! and A&E Biography for their segments on the comedian.

PRINT



Secrets Of A Gay Marine Porn Star

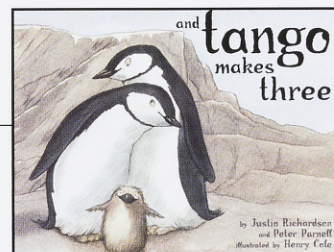
Rich Merritt

Paperback: 468 pages

KENSINGTON PUBLISHING

ISBN: 0758209681

During the height of Clinton's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, Merritt led two secret lives. Marines serving under him didn't realize their captain was a closeted gay man, and his small group of gay friends didn't know he made gay porn films while enlisted. In this hefty if meandering tell-all, Merritt charts his struggle to repress his sexuality while living amongst the members of his ultra-conservative family and attending "the Fortress of Fundamentalism": Bob Jones University. He'd never even masturbated prior to his first sexual experience in his mid-20s. That first encounter—with another man—ends with a knife being held to the throat of a woman who saw the two together. Being a Marine seems to appeal both to Merritt's narcissism and to his extreme low self-esteem. A self-avowed "adrenaline junkie" and drama queen with (undiagnosed) depression, he tries to feed his ego by becoming a stripper, a male escort (briefly) and, finally, a porn star. Just when the book seems headed for a happy ending with Merritt in a stable relationship and attending law school, he discovers circuit parties and starts mixing alcohol, recreational drugs and antidepressants, which sends him spiraling downward toward a suicide attempt. Merritt's tale is compelling, titillating and even moving. At nearly 500 pages, many of which are padded with superfluous detail, it often lags, making it far less compelling than it might have been with some judicious editing.



And Tango Makes Three

Justin Richardson,

Peter Parnell,

Henry Cole (Illustrator)

Hardcover 32 pages

SIMON & SCHUSTER CHILDREN'S

ISBN: 0689878451

Age Range: 4 to 8

Tango has two daddies in this heartwarming tale, inspired by actual events in New York's Central Park Zoo. Two male penguins, Roy and Silo, "did everything together. They bowed to each other.... They sang to each other. And swam together. Wherever Roy went, Silo went too.... Their keeper... thought to himself, 'They must be in love.' " Cole's (*The Sissy Duckling*) endearing watercolors follow the twosome as they frolic affectionately in several vignettes and then try tirelessly to start a family—first they build a stone nest and then they comically attempt to hatch a rock. Their expressive eyes capture a range of moods within uncluttered, pastel-hued scenes dominated by pale blue. When the keeper discovers an egg that needs tending, he gives it to Roy and Silo, who hatch and raise the female. The keeper says, "We'll call her Tango,... because it takes two to make a Tango." Older readers will most appreciate the humor inherent in her name plus the larger theme of tolerance at work in this touching tale. Richardson and Parnell, making their children's book debut, ease into the theme from the start, mentioning that "families of all kinds" visit the zoo. This tender story can also serve as a gentle jumping-off point for discussions about same-sex partnerships in human society.

SOUND

RING MY BELL

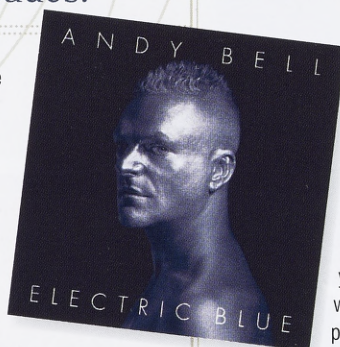
compiled by Michael Shanahan

Andy Bell has lived the pop dream as a member of trailblazing group Erasure for almost two decades.

The most down-to-earth musical duo ever to sell more than 14 million albums across the globe, **Vince Clarke** and **Andy Bell** have built an 18-year partnership on instantly memorable pop hooks, shimmering disco anthems, outlandish costumes and a million great nights out. Theirs is a lifelong intoxication with pop music as a celebration of love and lust, heartbreak and head-spinning spectacle.

Erasure were trailblazers not just in music but in sexual politics too. With minimal fanfare, Andy joined a small but highly significant frontline of universally loved and openly gay pop frontmen during the intensely homophobic climate of Margaret Thatcher's administration; with its pernicious "family values" propaganda and Clause 28 hate campaigns. Although he is reluctant to claim credit, the fact that tabloids can no longer get away with bigoted stitch-ups of gay singers in this age of Stephen Gately and Will Young is partly thanks to Andy's matter-of-fact attitude to his highly visible sexuality.

"I can't take credit for all of that," Andy argues, "because it doesn't mean



what it did anymore.

It mattered to me then, and you think it's going to matter for life. But then things start happening, the age of consent comes down, gay people getting married, all that stuff that you fought for. In general, we're in a much better place."

Almost two decades on at the beginning of 2005, Erasure released their most recent album *Nightbird*. Their songs have been covered by everyone from peroxide Eighties love kittens Dollar to nu-metal goofballs Wheatus.

Now Andy is pressing on into virgin territory as he releases his debut solo

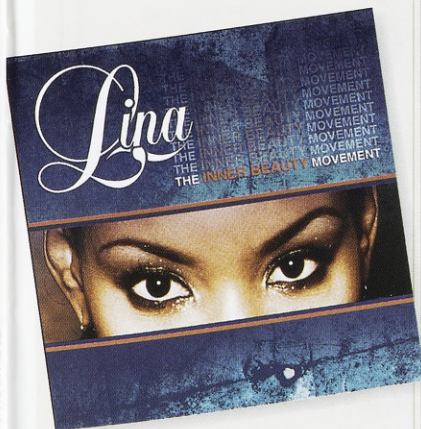
album, it's been a long time coming but is certainly worth the wait. 'Electric Blue' features 14 brand new tracks, including duets with **Claudia Brucken** (Propaganda and Act) and **Jake Shears** (Scissor Sisters), and encompasses a variety of musical genres, and celebrates Andy's absolute love of pop music. The album was co-written and recorded throughout 2004 and 2005 with Manhattan Clique (Philip Larsen & Chris Smith) who have previously worked with Erasure, Moby, The B-52's, Stereophonics and Morrissey.

The first single from the new release will be "Crazy". For Erasure fans who wonder if this is the end of the dynamic performing team, rest assured that nothing is farther from the truth. The band is tighter than ever after completing a sold out spring tour.



ANDY BELL MAKES HIS SOLO DEBUT

LISTEN UP!



LINA INNER BEAUTY EXPERIENCE

Swimming against the tide comes naturally to Lina. In fact, fearlessly treading the undercurrent beyond the waves of status quo is what shapes her fresh, arresting sound. That's abundantly clear from the first listen to Lina's sophomore project, *The Inner Beauty Movement*. The album—her first for new label home Hidden Beach Recordings—reflects the singer/songwriter's creative credo: to be passionate, organic and timeless. Whether discoursing on life's ups

and downs, love, self-empowerment or just plain old feeling good, the many moods showcased on *Inner Beauty* embody what Lina constantly strives for: originality.

"With so much technology, there are a lot of producer-driven artists," says the Los Angeles-based singer. "The result is that tracks have become the meat versus the lyrics. And it's become more about manufacturing mass-produced recordings. It can be difficult to be original, but I've always put passion

into my writing and performing. I just let the music that's inside of me flow out."

That passion permeates "Inner Beauty." As does Lina's hybrid melding of R&B, jazz, hip-hop, swing and pop. Rounding out the creative equation is Lina's prowess for penning songs whose lyrics not only entertain but also teach. As she notes, "When I write, it's what I'm feeling that day. Every song is an experience, some wisdom or knowledge gained; a musical lesson."

HEDWIG and the ANGRY INCH

by John Cameron Mitchell

Friday, Sept 16, 23, 30, Oct. 7, 14, 8pm

Saturday, Sept 17, 24, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 8pm

Sunday, Sept 25, Oct. 2, 2pm

Thursday, Sept 22, Oct. 13, 8pm



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7 p.m. Rally featuring

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Helen Grieco (California NOW) ★ Fancy Pants
Sacramento Taiko Dan ★ Survivor Speakout
Midge Marino (Trade Your Fear for Anger) ★ Jenn August

9 p.m. Women's March & Men's Program

9:30 p.m. Drum Circle facilitated by Doug Crawford of We B' Drummin'



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SPORT

MONARCHS ADVANCE TO WESTERN CONFERENCE FINALS

by Pat Hewitt

For the fourth time in 5 years, the Monarchs have advanced to the Western Conference Finals, facing the Houston Comets in the best of a three-game series Sept. 8, 10, and 11, broadcast nationally on ESPN.

Entering the playoffs with the best win record in the WNBA, the Monarchs again faced the hated **Los Angeles Sparks**, latecomers to the win column who had eeked into the 4th playoff position after an unanticipated Minnesota loss.

In a blistering two-game series, the Monarchs put the Sparks—and the world—on notice:

Sacramento's winning League position had been no fluke, and the women in purple spanked the Sparks 75-71 on L.A.'s home turf, and again on Sept. 2nd at Arco in an even more convincing trounce, sending the Monarchs on their way to the Western Conference Finals.

MONARCHS COACH NAMED WNBA COACH OF THE YEAR

Taking over a team that was expected to do nothing, and deserting a much less hectic desk job to do it, no one knew what to expect from **John Whisenant**. It goes without saying that they got a great deal more than anyone expected, namely a championship caliber team. The Monarchs have posted a 55-29 (.654) record since Whisenant took over in the middle of the 2003 season.

With a mindset that good defense wins games, his team shut down such shooting phenoms as **Lisa Leslie**, who was held to only 4 points in the first half of one game - and those from free throws. Leslie, whose scowl is notorious when the Sparks are losing,



MONARCH'S WIN WESTERN CONFERENCE

actually walked off the floor and sat out the last ten minutes of the game on the bench. So much for sportsmanship.

This year Sacramento has posted the best home record in the league (15-2), and won a franchise record eight consecutive home games. The team topped off the year by winning 12 of its last 14 games.

INJURIES PLAGUE MONARCH STALWARTS

While All-Star forward Demya Walker is back playing limited minutes and will be a strong presence in the Finals, point guard **Ticha Penicheiro**, arguably the best point guard in the league, recently sprained her right ankle during practice, and is now listed as day-to-day. **Kristin Haynie** will provide able back-up, and has been given significant second-half minutes in the last few games.

Back, however, and in fighting form, is **Kara Lawson**, still a reserve, but whose 3-pointers

coming off the bench have turned several games around, and left fans and her teammates pumping the air in support.

NICOLE POWELL WNBA MOST IMPROVED PLAYER

While some say it is impossible to compare this season's sharp-shooting Powell to the Powell who sat on the Charlotte bench for most of last year, there's no disputing that this former Stanford phenom has come into her own since she's been wearing the Monarchs purple.

Never afraid to shoot from the outside, Nicole—frequently double and triple defended—has learned to duck inside as well, leaving the smothering defense flat-footed and the basket unprotected from her short shot.

She's also become a more aggressive defender—overcoming an early weakness in her game. All in all, a very impressive package who well earned her new title.



RESTAURANT + CUISINE REVIEW

DINE

NOW THAT'S ITALIAN!

by Katrina Torres

This month my SMUD bill was so low that I just had to show it off. So I took it to show Robin, who works for the apartment complex where I live.

A foodie like me, we got into a deep discussion of the attributes of a really good pizza. She recommended **Luigi's Pizza**, which has been on the corner of 12th street and Stockton Boulevard since before I was born—how far before, I won't say. Not being one to miss a good meal, I checked it out.

I got there on a Saturday night about 6pm. An old building right on the corner, it has housed Luigi's Pizza since 1953. I worked just down the street for seven years and hadn't been there before, as a half-hour lunch isn't conducive to having pizza unless you take it to go and want to buy enough for everyone. The neighborhood can be slightly intimidating, but folks keep coming back. There were a dozen or more wrought iron tables with Formica tops and padded wooden benches. It had a well-settled look, with cracked linoleum tiles and a swinging front door. A couple of video games in the front corner kept some kids busy. A projection TV and a big screen set were tuned to a motocross bike exhibition. An antique bar with stained glass on the cooler doors lined one wall, long unused, but adding to the charm. Coolers circulated the air and ruffled my hair a little. The place had character. But could they make pizza?

"My friend Robin said your pizza is better than Zelda's", I told the person taking my order. He laughed. "The people who work at Zelda's come here for pizza," he said with a big smile. Good sign. I ordered the Luigi's special, with olives, salami, sausage and mushrooms, forgoing my usual pepperoni to try to the house specialty. Being a pastrami lover, I was tempted to try the beef pastrami pizza, or the pastrami sandwich, but held off. I took my expertly poured, cold draft beer, and settled at a table to wait while I enjoyed the ambience. Murals of Venice lined the walls, and people were relaxed and laughing. This was obviously a neighborhood joint of tried and true standing, and I



PHOTOGRAPH BY KATRINA TORRES

LUIGI'S ...THE BEST PIZZA IN TOWN!

could see why Robin liked it even before I tasted the food.

I could see the man Robin calls "Mr. Luigi" behind the counter, with his smiling face and friendly eyes catching every detail. His real name is Celso (pronounced "Chelso") Bida, and he was there, just like he is always there, to make sure everything goes right. Run by the Bida family for 38 years, his Dad was the first to take the reins, and eventually Celso and his brother Frank took over.

I loved the old fashioned kitchen, where you can look over and watch the whole process, and everything is done in "Luigi time." The original pizza oven, 50 years old, is gas heated and will work even if the electricity goes out. It occurred to me that if you don't mind eating by candlelight, and who does, Luigi's might be a pretty good place to weather a power failure. I forgot to ask if the beer tap still worked in a power outage also. The most modern piece of equipment is a huge steam-jacketed kettle, where Celso makes big batches of the tasty tomato based sauce that forms the base for the pizza and the pastas.

Before the pizza came, they set a real plate and fork, and Parmesan and peppers in front of me. I like that. If a pizza place makes you ask for those things, something is wrong. The pizza was delicious. The crust was thin and crisp, and held up to the toppings well without getting soggy, just the way I like it. The mushrooms were fresh, not that canned stuff, and the toppings were plentiful. Everything was well proportioned, with a balanced combination of ingredients, and the thin crust puffed up around the edges to make a nice handle. I could see why people like to dip the crusts in the creamy, homemade ranch dressing. I tried the spaghetti too, and it was very good. The meatballs were fat and flavorful, and freshly made by hand. The pasta was al dente, and the sauce was meaty, but still saucy enough to coat the pasta nicely, with a spicy little bite that titillated my taste buds and made me wonder if maybe a pepper flake or two hadn't found its way into the pot. Served with a warm, buttered Italian roll, the effect was quite nice.

I was glad I got a pizza big enough to last me a couple of days, especially with the order of spaghetti and meatballs and the side salad I ordered to go with it. I know what I'm eating tomorrow.

Buen Appetito!

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ask marge

WISDOM FROM THE DIVA:

As I grow older, I am constantly amazed how much like my father, or should I say my mother, that I have become. I remember that my mother was horrified that the cheerleaders in my High School wore black tights instead of Bobby Sox. I tried to explain to her that the girls did acrobatics and their panties would show, but she still just found it tacky!

Well, now that summer is waning I feel the need to express some of the Fashion Faux Pas that I have seen in the club and around the city. I present these to you with a faint echo of my mother's voice ringing in my ears.

1. The Letter "M" on a garment does not mean "Many Sizes".
2. In that same vein, "one size" does not "fit all"!
3. If your hips are more than 6 inches larger than you waist, you should not try to wear hip-hugger jeans. Those of us around when these skinny fashions first came out are very aware of this rule.
4. If your spandex top is so tight that it should read "Baby on Board", step up a couple of sizes—this is especially true for men.
5. Don't buy jeans so small that it causes all the excess fat to be pushed upward. Accompanying these jeans with a midriff-bearing top is not sexy—just hilarious.
6. Guys—and some lesbians—PULL YOUR PANTS UP—exposed boxers are so last decade.
7. Flip-flops, a summer shoe staple, are not meant for club wear! Drunks drop things and there could be broken glass on the floor of clubs. Also, you don't want a 6'3" buxom blonde drag queen to step on your exposed foot.
8. Loud colored or patterned boogie shorts are very noticeable, don't wear the same ones four and five days in a row.
9. Never wear sequins to an outdoor summer function. You could bake like a Potato.
10. And the most important one—wash your clothes after each use. You perspire a lot more when it is 100 degrees—some of you are a little ripe at times.

The best suggestion that I can make is to simply look in a mirror before leav-

ing the house. It gives you a preview of what the rest of us are seeing.

Marge,

What is the best way to meet ladies? My friend and I have been going to Faces and Club21 and having no luck. I think people automatically assume that we are a couple. How do we get around that? I know a third party would help but we do not know anyone else. I am ready to get a shirt that says "I am not her partner." I am pretty shy so approaching women is not easy. Any suggestions? Signed, Confused

Dear Confused:

Everyone is afraid of rejection, but someone has to make the first move. Shyness is not something that I am personally familiar with. Some people even refer to me as "The Mouth", but by joining women's organizations and slowly networking you will find that someone special. I always say dive into a charity group, even if you don't meet that special person—you will be bettering both yourself and your community. xx MARGE

Marge,

I'm a guy and I just moved to Sac to find just that—but I'm unsure. One day I'm looking for a lady to spend time with, the next I decide that I'm looking for a guy. I can't make up my mind which would fit for me, and in the meantime I'm left alone and pondering. How can I break this pattern? Signed, Skipper

Dear Skipper:

Since part of the "Ask Marge" site requires that you submit your sexual identity, to which you answered as being transgender—you have me all confused. First you seem to need to be clear what you want your own personal sexual identity to be and become familiar and secure in that lifestyle and who you are. Then you can begin exploring your sexuality. It is hard to answer this because you have not stated if you are MTF or FTM. I always feel that when you find "The One" you will know where your sexuality is centered. According to the bisexuals that I know, until then just enjoy the love and attention of the sex you are with. Two humans coming together can be very powerful indeed. Just choose good over evil!

xx MARGE



tarotsopes

Dear Jessica,

I just moved from Virginia to San Francisco. On the way, I stopped in NYC to visit with an old lover of mine. Something rekindled and now I don't know where I belong. Guidance?

—San Francisco, CA

Dear Seeker,

You have given me an opportunity to do one of my favorite readings- a spread I designed which looks at what will happen in either event you choose, and what the Universe recommends. Let me start off by saying that the card recommending which path you should choose is the 7 of Cups, which suggests that this is one of the decisions in life you will have to make all by yourself. The choose-your-own-adventure book of life is presenting two equally favorable possibilities. It's a big decision, and the 7 of Cups encourages you to take the riskier path, whichever one that is. Both options offer security and challenge, in different ways. The path of NYC shows me the Ace of Pentacles and the Queen of Pentacles, which suggest that you will find greater financial security in NYC, but fewer opportunities for spiritual growth. The path of San Francisco shows me the 4 of Wands and the 5 of Wands, which indicate that SF holds more in the way of recognition and conquering your fears. Basically, the question comes down to sacrifice and status. What are you willing to sacrifice for financial security? What are you willing to sacrifice for depth of character and acclaim? Do you want to be a little fish in a big, fast pond, or a big

fish in a smaller, slower pond? You are coming up the Hanged Man—whatever you choose, you are giving something up. Which-ever sacrifice feels more dangerous to you is the one you should daringly choose. Good luck!

Dear Jessica,

I have been so crushing on this guy for months. It seemed like something was going to happen, but then it just...didn't. Now what?

—Lafayette, CA

Dear Seeker,

Well, it looks as though this guy is simply not looking for the same things you are. You are coming up as the Sun, a beautiful card that indicates clarity of purpose, victory, and a strong sense of self. You know what you want in a relationship. He is coming up as the Hermit, which shows me that he is in retreat from you because he does not want the same things you do. That does not mean he doesn't like you- he's simply not ready for you. Now, let me say that I do see potential here for friendship, but not much more. This is never an easy thing to hear, but I need to tell you to give him up, because the 5 of Swords says it's time to face the limitations of this situation. Fear not- there is another one right behind him who is a better fit for you (2 of Wands.) The sooner you can relinquish hope of controlling this situation (4 of Pentacles), the quicker this new interest will come along. You will be just as enthusiastic about the new one as you have been about this one, believe it or not. He's a much better catch.

READERS

Jessica Rabbit is a lesbian psychic and tarot reader. You may contact her on the web at sacredtarot.com

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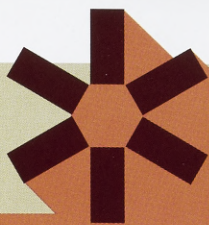
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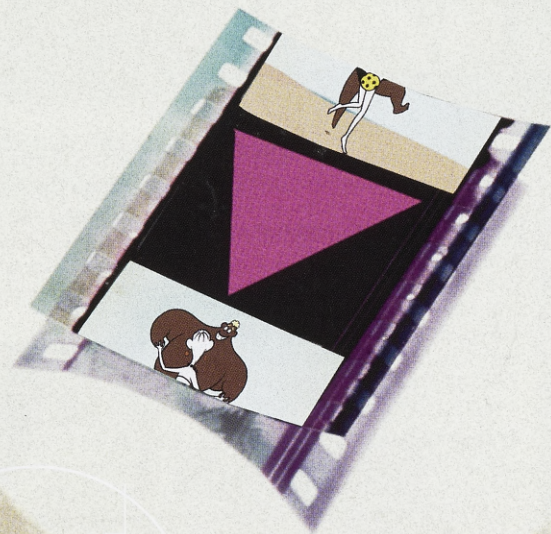
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